

## **Teen- Service Learning Opportunities**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Why won't the system let me register my child for the Junior Counselor Program?**

**Age:** Junior Counselors need to be between 14-16 years old by the start of the program.

**Orientation:** The system will not allow a registration for the Junior Counselor program unless they register for the Junior Counselor Orientation first.

**Prerequisite:** Junior Counselors need to complete and pass the Summer Leadership Challenge (SLC) before being able to register for the Junior Counselor program.

If you have an additional problem with registration please contact customer service at 240-777-6840.

**Can my child participate in the Summer Leadership Challenge (SLC) and then register to be a Junior Counselor later in the summer?**

The system will not allow a SLC participant to register for the Junior Counselor programs until they have successfully completed the SLC program and passed. The system is updated within five days of each completed SLC session. You may register for a Junior Counselor session at that time.

**Can I register my child for part of one session and another part of a later session?**

Participants should commit to completing the whole session and we do not prorate for missed days.

**My child is on the waitlist for a program, what are the chances they will get into that program?**

We have no way of knowing if a space will open up in a program. We do recommend that you sign up for the waitlist if you have flexibility in your schedule. We will contact parents as soon as possible if a space opens up.

**My child participated in the SLC or Junior Counselor Program last summer (or the summer before or the summer before that) and we can't find the SSL form. Do you have a copy of the form?**

Participants need to hold on to their forms and keep copies for their personal records. We do not keep copies of these forms! Participants will need to fax a written request to 240.777.4981 explaining how the form was lost and submit a completed SSL form (with reflection statement) before a replacement will be issued.

**My child has been a Junior Counselor for 2 years. Does she/he still have to go to the orientation?**

Yes! The Junior Counselor orientation is mandatory for all Junior Counselors. It is the only opportunity to review Junior Counselor expectations, MCRD policies and turn in paperwork. It also allows the teens an opportunity to reflect and share their challenges and successes from their previous experiences and to get excited about the coming summer.

**My child was a CIT in another program for a different organization for example City of Rockville, City of Gaithersburg, Barrie School etc. Is he/she eligible to participate in the Junior Counselor program this summer?**

The registration system will not recognize the eligibility of a teen who served as a Junior Counselor/CIT at a different organization. Please call 240.777.6810 and provide the program information and we can verify your child's successful participation in the other program. Once we have verified participation and successful completion of that program, we will allow a manual override for your child's eligibility. Please allow 3 - 5 business days for this confirmation. Once this is complete you will have to register by mail, fax or in person at our Customer Service Desk.

**My older child was able to serve as a Junior Counselor when he/she turned 13. Why did you change the eligibility requirements?**

Based on Camp feedback from our camp directors, we decided to provide an introductory level of teen volunteer participation with our summer programs. First time volunteers often require more guidance, support and feedback regarding their support of our summer camp programs. It can be disruptive to the camp environment when we place a volunteer who is not ready for the responsibilities of the position. Summer Leadership Challenge provides instruction, hands-on experiences and an opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and fun environment.

**How many Student Service Learning (SSL) hours will my child earn?**

**Junior Counselors:** Earn SSL hours for the Junior Counselor Orientation and for each hour of successful completion in the program.

**Summer Leadership Challenge:** participants will earn SSL hours for time spent in workshops, team-building activities, planning, leading activities with campers and reflecting on their activities. Generally, this adds up to about 5 SSL hours per day.

**NOTE: The camp director will fill out a feedback form on each participant. In order for participants to receive SSL hours they must receive a score of 12 (out of 20) or higher.**

**Missed days:** Participants do not earn SSL hours on missed days and will earn reduced hours on days when they are tardy or have to leave early.

**My child doesn't swim. Will she/he have to go in the pool on swim days?**

There are many different responsibilities that Junior Counselors fulfill to support the camp program when they visit our pools. Your child should communicate with the Camp Director on the first day of camp to let him/her know and ask how he/she can be most helpful at the pool.

### **What do SLC participants do all day?**

SLC participants will be engaging in workshops, games and activities to explore and practice the skills and awareness that Junior Counselors and Camp staff need to be successful in our programs. Volunteers should come to the program ready to learn and contribute to the program every day. Workshops are designed to be interactive and fun and will include non-verbal communication, teamwork, conflict resolution, leading activities and creating a safe and fun environment. Participants will have opportunities throughout the program to lead activities with MCRD campers.

### **What forms will I have to submit to the camp? Where can I get them?**

Summer Leadership Challenge and Junior Counselor participants will be e-mailed forms prior to camp starting. These forms may also be downloaded from the MCRD website. Junior Counselors should bring all the forms to orientation and Summer Leadership Challenge participants should bring their forms on the first day of camp.

- 1. Volunteer Registration Form**
- 2. Health & Information Form:** The camp must have a Health & Information Form before your child can participate in camp. Each camp your child attends throughout the summer will require a copy. Fill out the form completely. Participants can not attend camp without complete information! For example the date your child received a tetanus immunization.
- 3. Authorization for Prescription Medication:** If your child requires medication at camp, call 240-777-6810 to receive the Prescription Authorization Form or go online at <http://mongomerycountymd.gov/rec>. A physician's authorization is required. This prescription form must be sent to the Recreation Department (4010 Randolph Rd Silver Spring MD 20902) for review at least 3 weeks (15 business days) before your child's scheduled camp session. **Bring a copy of this form to camp with your child.**
- 4. Pick-up Authorization Form**

### **I am not able to pick my child up at the end of the program. Is there aftercare available for teen volunteers?**

We handle these calls on a case-by-case basis.

**Extended Camp:** We are able to enroll the Junior Counselor **as a participant** in Extended Care. In aftercare, the teen will **not** be expected to serve in a volunteer capacity. They can play with the campers or bring a book and relax. We expect them to set a positive example for the campers. **They will be charged full price and will not earn SSL hours.** (This will require a manual override of age eligibility). Not all locations have an extended camp option!

**Walkers:** If the parent is comfortable having their child wait unsupervised until they are able to pick up, they can indicate on their Pick-up Authorization form that their child has permission to walk. The child may not remain in a Montgomery County Public School or Montgomery County Recreation building after program hours, but can wait unsupervised for their ride outside.

**Does MCRD provide transportation to the camps?**

MCRD does not provide any transportation between our Extended Care sites and camp locations. Participants are responsible for coordinating their own transportation to and from the program location.

**If my child successfully completes the Summer Leader Challenge will he/she be guaranteed a spot in Junior Counselor?**

The Junior Counselor program is filled on a first-come, first-serve basis and some locations do fill up quickly. We cannot guarantee any spots in the Junior Counselor program.

**Does Junior Counselor participation guarantee that my child will be hired as camp staff the following summer?**

We are not able to guarantee future employment with MCRD. We receive hundreds of applications for employment, and are not able to hire everyone that we'd like to. We try to hire former Junior Counselors whenever we can, but **participation in this program does not guarantee employment.**

**My child is ready to apply for a job. Who should he/she talk to?**

Past participants will need to apply for a summer camp job on the county's website. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) for openings and more information on this process. Please note that we receive hundreds of applications for a limited number of staff positions and we are unable to guarantee employment.

**I still have a question who should I contact?**

For programming questions contact the Programs Team at 240.777.6810